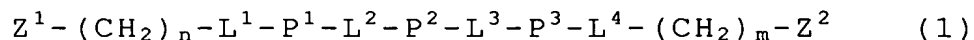


Abstract

A novel liquid crystalline compound by the formula:



wherein Z^1 and Z^2 are each independently a group represented by any one of formulas (2), (3) and (4) below, L^1 , L^2 , L^3 , and L^4 each independently indicate direct bond or are a group represented by any of $-O-$, $-O-CO-$, or $-CO-O-$, P^1 and P^2 are each independently a group represented by formula (5) below, and P^3 indicates direct bond or is a group represented by formula (5) below, n and m are each independently an integer of 0 to 8;



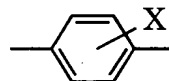
(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)

wherein X is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, or halogen and provides an optical film with an excellent capability of retaining the aligned liquid crystal orientation which has been fixed and in mechanical strength.